

Report To: Community Health & Care
Partnership Sub Committee

Date: 25 August 2011

Report By: Robert Murphy
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Care Partnership

Report No: CHCP/40/2011/SMcA

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Subject: Change to Scheme of Delegation

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To request members approval of a proposed Scheme of Delegation.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 In order to develop a more efficient service It is proposed to increase the amount which can be authorised for statutory purposes by Team Leaders in Children and Families, Social Work Services in the CHCP from £20 to £100.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the Sub-Committee agree to the change to the Scheme of Delegation as detailed in paragraph 2.1 above.

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4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The current Scheme of Delegation was introduced under Strathclyde Region. It enables Team Leaders to approve payments under section 17 and section 22 of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 of up to £20. Section 22 payments are used in a variety of ways to support families e.g. providing emergency financial support in cases of destitution, provision of essential welfare requirements of children in need, and supporting kinship carers at the start of a placement. Section 17 is used to promote contact between accommodated children/young people and their parents by paying travel expenses.
- 4.2 Currently when a payment over £20 is required, this has to be authorised by a Service Manager. As £20 is now worth much less in material terms than when the original scheme was introduced under Strathclyde region, Team Leaders more often have to seek authorisation which is in the form of a signature appended to the appropriate form. With the reduction in the number of Service Managers this has become more difficult in practical terms as there are no longer Service Managers based within each fieldwork office on a full-time basis.
- 4.3 It is considered that by raising the limit which a Team Leader Children and Families in Social Work Services to £100 the service will be more efficient and there will be less effort expended in trying to locate an appropriate signatory.

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 It is proposed that the Scheme of Delegation Children and Families in Social Worker Services to Delegation be amended to raise the limit which can be authorised by a Team Leader from £20 to £100

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Legal: None
- 6.2 Finance: This has been discussed with Finance who have no objections. There are no financial implications as the budget will remain the same.
- 6.3 Personnel: None
- 6.4 Equalities: None

7.0 Consultation

- 7.1 The above proposals have been discussed with the finance section.